TO THE

LOWER CLASS OF PEOPLE

IN THE

WESTERN PART

OF THE

COUNTY OF CORNWALL.

BY CATHARINE PHILLIPS.

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TO THE LOWER CLASS OF PEOPLE IN THE WESTERN PART OF THE COUNTY OF CORNWALL.

FRIENDS!

FOR as ſuch I hope I may addreſs you; having ſince my reſidence amongſt you ſought your welfare, and manifeſted my regard to a number of you by acts of kindneſs; and being the afflicted widow of your acknowledged Friend, who was beloved honoured and lamented by many of you, I hope for your attention to what I may propoſe to you, whilſt I ſpeak the language he would have ſpoken to you if alive; that is, *Study to be quiet, and mind your own buſineſs.*

GREAT are the diſturbances which now abound in a neighbouring nation, wherein the inhabitants are riſen up againſt each other, and horrible cruelties have been exerciſed under the pretence of their obtaining LIBERTY. But whatever oppreſſions have heretofore been practiſed

by their rulers, the ſufferings of very many have been doubled through ſome of theſe pretended reformers of the State, whoſe conduct, in many reſpects, has been marked with ſuch inſtances of impiety and barbarity, as may juſtly render them abhorred by all civilized nations; and which muſt one day draw down upon them the juſt judgments of Almighty GOD!—But what ſhall we ſay? 'tis written in Scripture, that *the wicked are his ſword:* and does it not appear that many of the inhabitants and rulers of that nation were ripe for chaſtiſement? whoſe reſtleſs ambition diſturbed the peace of their neighbours, and whoſe unclean ſpirits were manifeſted by the too general depravity and uncleanneſs of their manners.—Now what has befallen them ſhould tend to our warning, and engage the inhabitants of this highly favoured nation, to turn from their iniquities; for unto many of them it may be ſaid, as the bleſſed JESUS ſaid to the Jews, *Think ye that the men upon whom the tower of Siloam fell, were ſinners above all*

all who dwelt in Jeruſalem? I tell you nay: for except ye repent, ye ſhall all likewiſe periſh.

THE ſins of this nation are marked before a righteous God, and its inhabitants are loudly called upon to humble themſelves in his holy preſence, leſt he ſhould *pour upon them his wrath as waters*. His juſt judgments may be executed in a manner we cannot foreſee: he hath many ways whereby to puniſh an ungrateful people; and what people in the general hath he favoured like the inhabitants of this iſland? But alas! what returns of righteouſneſs have they made for his manifold favours?

FRIENDS, Conſider the ſtate of your ſouls, and many of you will ſee that a great change of ſpirit is abſolutely neceſſary; and becoming engaged therein, you will be taught to *fear God and honour the King*, and therefore will not be led away by the ſpecious cry of Liberty, but deſire that you may make uſe of the invaluable liberty which is allowed you, to worſhip

him

him in the way which his Spirit convinces you is right, to his honour and the everlaſting welfare of your immortal ſouls. And thus would you ſeek the peace of the land, and your own true happineſs, and thankfulneſs to the God and Father of all your mercies would increaſe, ſo that the language of an inſpired penman would at times be yours, reſpecting this nation, *Who is like unto thee a people favoured of the Lord?* For although ſufferings may be mixed in your cup, which may call for ſympathy, and ſome of them for redreſs; yet even the poor amongſt us may rejoice that they are not, as in many other countries, ſlaves, nor groaning under deſpotic power.——And if the poor were generally *rich in faith and good works*, I verily believe the Lord would ariſe for their help, and their proviſion, both in a ſpiritual and temporal ſenſe, would be bleſſed, and their burdens would be lightened.—'Tis He can influence the minds of rulers to ſeek the happineſs of thoſe they govern.—Oh! that in uprightneſs

neſs of heart he may be ſought unto, by our inhabitants, that his wiſdom, power, and lovingkindneſs, may be by them experienced from generation to generation!

FRIENDS, There are men of reſtleſs ſpirits amongſt us, who are ſeeking their own honour, rather than the peace and happineſs of the people, whilſt they endeavour to allure the ignorant and unwary with the pleaſing but deluſive cry of EQUALITY:—whoſe view is to be equal in power and riches with thoſe in high eſtate; but who have no intention that property ſhall be divided amongſt the people in general, which ſome of you may poſſibly, ſuppoſe to be the caſe.—If theſe could acquire their deſired equality, they would probably ſoon aſpire to ſuperiority; and perhaps, ſo far as their power extended, govern with an high hand, to the increaſing, inſtead of diminiſhing, of your ſufferings, as well as that of the nations at large.—Be not led away with falſe and vain pretences, nor meddle with matters of which you are not competent judges,

judges, and ſo be hurried into ſuch extravagant conduct, as may terminate in the miſery of yourſelves, families, and countrymen.—Suffer me to repeat the admonition wherewith I began, *Study to be quiet, and mind your own buſineſs;* which is to work out the ſalvation of your own immortal ſouls, through the aſſiſtance of the grace of God; whereof a ſufficient meaſure is given to every man, to profit withal; and to attend induſtriouſly to your outward callings, that you may provide honeſtly for the neceſſities of yourſelves and families.—In ſo doing you will ſerve God, and be honourable in your generation, however low may be your ſtations in the world; and his "bleſſing which maketh truly rich, and wherein is no mixture of ſorrow," will be with you in life, and in death, and unto all eternity.—Amen, ſaith your real friend,

CATHARINE PHILLIPS.

REDRUTH, the 12th of the 12th Month, 1792.

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